

S T. J U S T U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L.

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H.

February 11 th. 1909.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

The Parish of St. Just is bounded on the north by Morvan, on the South by St. Buryan and Sennen, on the east by Sancreed, and on the West by the Atlantic Ocean. The surface is undulating, with three valleys, through each of which flows a stream. There is a series of villages and hamlets, together with the town of St. Just. The chief industries are tin and copper mining, and farming. Mining still continues to be the leading industry and gives employment to the majority of the male population. Though the price of tin maintains a fair average, no new ventures have been put on the market, and the wages of the employed are not so high as a year ago. Tin-streaming is still carried on, and fair returns have been made. Dairy farming continues in a healthy condition, and very little changes have been made in your district.

The new houses built have been quickly occupied, and I should like to see fifty more of the artisan class, containing four bedrooms each, erected, as in many cases, where large families exist, the bedroom accommodation is insufficient. The open spaces about the houses, and also the interiors, are clean, and it is very seldom that your Council is called upon to use its powers.

Water. Your immediate attention to this all important question has been frequently urged on you by the Local Government Board and the County Council, and it is to be hoped that some tangible effort will be made during the year to satisfy a great want that has been acutely felt.

Sewage. The new sewer laid down at Carrallack Terrace, to meet

the requirements of the new houses is in every way satisfactory, the cost being £58 : 12 : 0. The drainage of Truthwall, and part of Trewellard, costing £10 : 0 : 0 and £18 : 0 : 0 respectively, has been of great advantage. No complaints have been received with regard to other parts of the district.

Milk Supply. The milk supplied by the various vendors is very good, and no cases of disease have been traced to that source. The dairies and cow sheds are not registered, but are kept clean. No shops for the sale of milk exist, the milk being delivered direct to the consumer.

Meat Supply. The meat exposed for sale is of good quality, and no carcasses have been condemned for tuberculosis. Slaughter houses are registered; they are kept clean and well ventilated. Store-houses for food stuff do not call for any special attention, as the supplies are frequently changed.

Pollution of Rivers. There are no industries in the district which cause pollution to the streams. The south drain of the town empties into Boscorne stream, near the sea, which at times is offensive.

Removal of Excreta. The removal of closet pits by means of the sanitary cart is well carried out, and the scavenging by the Council's employees is satisfactory. No nuisances remain unabated.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Bakehouses. The bakehouses are clean and well kept, but still remain unregistered. I would again recommend your having them registered.

Vaccination. I am sorry to have to report that a great number of people are availing themselves of exemption under the Vaccination Act, and I must remind you of the grave danger and expense your Council will be open to in the event of an outbreak of small-pox.

Disinfectants. There is no disinfecting apparatus, but an adequate supply of disinfectants is always kept.

Factories and Workshops. This Act is carried out in the district and requires no special attention.

Visiting the District. I have made house to house visitation and paid isolated visits in various parts of the district.

General Remarks. I had to bring to your notice the outbreak of Typhoid Fever at Carn Bosavern and Boscarell Village, also Diphtheria at Carn Bosavern and in other places, which I then dealt with and which called for a special report. I again urge on you the necessity of hastening the scheme for an efficient water supply, so that the inconvenience and subsequent danger of a dry summer may be averted.

Statistics. During the year 1908 there were 174 births registered, 95 males and 79 females (29 more than last year) giving a birth rate of 30.81 per thousand of the population.

Eighty seven deaths were registered, 52 males and 35 females (a decrease of 2) giving a death rate of 15.43 per thousand of the population. There is a natural increase of 87, as compared with 46 for the previous year.

Eleven deaths occurred in children under one year, a decrease of 3 compared with the previous year, (premature birth being the cause of 4 deaths). I regard this as most satisfactory. There were 8 deaths between 1 and 5 years, 3 between 5 and 15 years, 9 between 15 and 25 years, 25 between 25 and 65, and 31 from 65 and over.

Old age was the cause of 14 deaths, and heads the list, phthisis is second with 12 deaths, half of which were due to miner's phthisis, heart disease 10, same as last year, cancer 6, a decrease of 5, apoplexy 5, premature birth 4, accidents 5, pneumonia 4, Bright's disease 3, convulsions 3, bronchitis 3, diphtheria 2, other diseases of the respiratory organs 2, scarlet fever, enteric fever, diarrhoea,

influenza, other tubercular disease, pleurisy, and accidents of parturition, 1 each, and 6 to all other causes.

There were 32 cases of infectious diseases notified, 5 diphtheria, 7 erysipelas, 9 typhoid fever, 11 scarlet fever, the total cost being £4 : 0 : 0

1 remain,

Your obedient servant.

R. G. M. Pitt

M. O. H.

